

EDUCATION BILLS PASSED

HB 440	Gonzales, Larry(R) Watson, Kirk(D)	Relating to adapting the public school physical education curriculum to accommodate the needs of students with mental disabilities.	Remarks: Will require accommodations in physical education classes for all student receiving special education services, including those with a mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), and autism spectrum disorder.	Bill History: 05-23-15 G Earliest effective date
HB 2684	Giddings, Helen(D) Whitmire, John(D)	Relating to the creation of a model training curriculum and to the required training for school district peace officers and school resource officers.	Remarks: Will require school district peace officers and school resource offices to be trained on positive behavioral interventions and supports and the behavioral needs of students with disabilities.	Bill History: 09-01-15 G Earliest effective date
SB 107	Whitmire, John(D) Thompson, Senfronia(D)	Relating to the removal, discipline, or transfer of a public school student.	Remarks: Will make the removal of student from campus to another location or to a disciplinary alternative education program discretionary, not mandatory, and requires consideration of whether the student has a disability that affects understanding of code of conduct violations.	Bill History: 06-20-15 G Earliest effective date
SB 108	Whitmire, John(D) Thompson, Senfronia(D)	Relating to criminal procedures for certain misdemeanor offenses committed by children.	Remarks: Redefines "child" for criminal school offenses as between ages 10 and 18, not 10 and 17, for justice or municipal court. Prohibits a law enforcement officer or school resource officer from issuing a citation to a child who is alleged to have committed a school offense. A school employee may recommend teen court.	Bill History: 09-01-15 G Earliest effective date

SB 149	Seliger, Kel(R) Huberty, Dan(R)	Relating to the creation of individual graduation committees for certain high school students.
		<p>Remarks: Will allow graduation committees to assess whether a student who has not performed satisfactorily on end-of-course assessments can qualify for graduation based on other criteria. Does not affect the role of the ARD as final decision maker for students receiving special education services.</p>
		<p>Bill History: 05-11-15 G Earliest effective date</p>
SB 507	Lucio, Eddie(D) Thompson, Senfronia(D)	Relating to the placement of video cameras in self-contained classrooms providing special education services.
		<p>Remarks: Will require a school district or open enrollment charter school to provide video camera for self contained classrooms or other special education settings on request of a parent or a school trustee/staff. Parental notification is required, parental consent is not required, and language providing for removal of cameras in response to parental objections was not adopted. Provides that excess Foundation School funds may be used for grants to purchase equipment, with priority given to certain districts.</p>
		<p>Bill History: 06-19-15 G Earliest effective date</p>
SB 674	Campbell, Donna(R) Coleman, Garnet(D)	Relating to instruction regarding mental health, substance abuse, and youth suicide in educator training programs.
		<p>Remarks: Will change educator academic requirements from detection of to instruction in mental health, substance abuse, suicide from a list of best practices, including de-escalation and positive behavioral interventions and supports.</p>
		<p>Bill History: 06-19-15 G Earliest effective date</p>
SB 836	Watson, Kirk(D) Rodriguez, Eddie(D)	Relating to management services for the physical facilities of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Texas School for the Deaf.
		<p>Remarks: Will transfer responsibilities for physical maintenance of Texas School for the Blind and Texas School for the Deaf to the Texas Facilities Commission.</p>
		<p>Bill History: 05-29-15 G Earliest effective date</p>

SB 1259	Rodriguez, Jose(D) Allen, Alma(D)	Relating to the committee developing a student's individualized education plan, the written report of the committee, and a regular education teacher's opportunity for input.
Remarks:		Will require general education teacher on IEP to be one of the student's teachers and to provide input into IEP; will require the ARD report to document decisions and include dates, names, positions, and signatures of members, with parent, student if adult, and administrator's agreement or disagreement with decisions noted; members of committee disagreeing will be provided opportunity for statement to be included in report.
Bill History:		06-19-15 G Earliest effective date

SB 1867	Zaffirini, Judith(D) Aycock, Jimmie Don(R)	Relating to excluding certain adult students receiving special education services from computation of dropout and completion rates for purposes of public school accountability.
Remarks:		Will exclude enrolled students receiving special education services from computation of dropout and completion rates if they are 18 or older and have satisfied credit requirements for graduation and have not completed their IEP.
Bill History:		06-19-15 G Earliest effective date

EDUCATION BILLS NOT PASSED

SB 1584	Lucio, Eddie(D)	Relating to positive behavioral interventions and supports for students enrolled in public school who receive special education services.
Remarks:		Would promote PBIS and give conditions under which restraint may be used as an emergency intervention, prohibiting use in a behavioral intervention plan; with documentation, parental and district notification requirements and ARD referral for consideration. Would add PBIS and bullying to training options; would require PBIS training of some general education teachers who work with students with disabilities. School administrators had concerns with training requirements for using restraint and with staffing functional behavior analyses.
Bill History:		05-14-15 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

SB 1871

Lucio, Eddie(D)

Relating to the establishment of the Texas Board of Behavior Analyst Examiners and the requirement to obtain a license to practice as a behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst.

Remarks:

Would establish a Texas Board of Behavior Analyst Examiners licensure and scope of practice. Would not add requirements in addition to the national certification requirements. Necessary for BCBAs to bill Medicaid for services provided by staff they supervise. Concerns were that the requirements for supervised practice hours and other qualification factors were not on par with similar professions like licensed professional counselors and licensed social workers.

Bill History:

03-25-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services

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